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8 October 1963

South Vietnam SUMMARY



ARMY and DOS review(s) completed.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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GROUP 1
Excluded from
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THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

(Information as of 1000 EDT)

1. A Soviet proposal to use the International Control Commission (Poland, India, Canada) rather than a group of invited observers to check on the Buddhist situation in South Vietnam has temporarily disrupted the planned course of the UN treatment of the Vietnam issue. The General Assembly is expected, however, to go ahead with the original plan this afternoon.

Soviet Representative Fedorenko said the South Vietnamese people should settle the problem themselves without foreign interference, but at the same time called it the duty of the General Assembly to take prompt action to protect the legitimate rights and interests of the South Vietnamese people. This, he suggested, could best be done by a request to the Geneva co-chairmen to have the ICC investigate regime terrorism and report back through the co-chairmen by the end of the 18th General Assembly.

2. Tri Quang, the Buddhist monk in asylum in the US Embassy in Saigon, says that South Vietnam's UN observer, Buu Hoi, tried in a series of five meetings this summer to dissuade him from militant opposition to the regime. He described Buu Hoi as a man of no principles serving the regime for the money he receives. Tri Quang said he had been warned against Buu Hoi by the latter's mother, Buddhist nun Dieu Hue, who compared her son's private life with that of Emperor Bao Dai.

3. The article in Monday's Times of Vietnam, charging that the US economic aid program has been suspended, is getting wide publicity. The article said that in actual practice all economic aid has been suspended since the issuance of a policy directive reportedly dated 16 September. Foreign correspondents in Saigon report that the Commodity Import Program, which generates about \$110 million a year for the South Vietnamese Government, has come to a "virtual standstill" since August.

4. Viet Cong military activity continues at a level which is high but not abnormally so for this time of year, with the advent of the dry season. MACV reports continuing evidence that the Viet Cong are using bases in Cambodian territory to support their war effort in South Vietnam.

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